



Communications Learning Activity

Title

Internet Friends: Are they who they appear to be?

4-H Project Area

- Communication and Expressive Arts
- Science and Technology

Purpose

To create responsible youth who understand that people they first “meet” on the Internet should never be considered their friend.

Age Level

Ages 14+

Materials Needed

- Several different brands of the same food item (ex. brand name crackers, generic crackers), placed in unmarked containers
- Activity sheet (see attached as a sample)
- Plates, cups, and/or napkins
- Pencils

Time

15-20 minutes

Background

The Internet is a place where we can meet new people and talk about things we have in common. But on the Internet, we must be careful when meeting new people.

This activity encourages youth to think about how people they meet online may appear and to be cautious when sharing personal information with them.

Activity

- Prepare an activity sheet that lists the food item brands that will be used in the activity.
- Place each of the food items in plain unmarked containers, labeling each brand with a different letter, as would appear in a taste test.
- Distribute activity sheet and pencils to youth.
- Ask the youth to sample each of the food items and match them with their appropriate brand name.
- Provide answers to youth after they have completed the activity sheet.

Sample Discussion Questions

- Were your food item and brand matches correct? Why or why not?
- How were you able to decide which food samples belonged to which brand?
- When you meet new people on the Internet, it's easy to be confused about who they really might be. They may appear to be just like you, and may not be at all. Just like one brand of food may appear to be just like another. In what ways is online communication different than in-person communication?
- What kinds of information would you consider to be personal information?
- Would you share personal information in-person with a person you just met? Why or why not?
- Would you share personal information online with a person you just met? Why or why not?
- Describe why we have to be careful when meeting new people on the Internet.

Prepared By

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Activity adapted from www.netsmartz.org

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SAMPLE ACTIVITY SHEET

Sample the food items provided by your leader.

Then write down the letter of the sample that you feel matches the brand listed below.

TORTILLA CHIPS

Brand	Letter
Tostitos	_____
Weavers	_____
Calidad	_____

POP

Brand	Letter
Diet Coke	_____
Diet Pepsi	_____
Best Choice Cola	_____